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| Criteria | CCGPS | Score | | | | |
| 4  Essays at this level: | 3  Essays at this level: | 2  Essays at this level: | 1  Essays at this level: | 0  Essays at this level: |
| Content and Analysis: the extent to which the essay conveys complex ideas and information clearly and accurately in order to support claims made concerning what the texts say explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text | W2a, W2b, W2d | clearly introduce a topic in a manner that is engaging and follows logically from the task and purpose  demonstrate insightful analysis of the text(s) both explicitly and inferences drawn from the text(s) | clearly introduce a topic in a manner that follows from the task and purpose  demonstrate grade-appropriate analysis of what the text(s) say explicitly and inferences drawn from the text(s) | introduce a topic in a manner that follows generally from the task and purpose  demonstrate a literal comprehension of what the text(s) say explicitly | introduce a topic in a manner that does not logically follow from the task and purpose  demonstrate little understanding of the text(s) | demonstrate a lack of comprehension of the text(s) or task |
| Command of Evidence: the extent to which the essay presents evidence from the provided texts to support analysis and reflection | W2b, W9a, W9b | develop the topic with a wide variety of relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples from the text(s)  sustain the use of varied, relevant evidence | develop the topic with multiple relevant facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples from the text(s)  sustain the use of relevant evidence, with some lack of variety | partially develop the topic of the essay with the use of some textual evidence, some of which may be irrelevant  use relevant evidence inconsistently | demonstrate an attempt to use evidence, but only develop ideas with minimal, occasional evidence which is generally invalid or irrelevant | provide no evidence or provide evidence that is completely irrelevant |
| Coherence, Organization, and Style: the extent to which the essay logically organizes complex ideas, concepts, and information using formal style and precise language | W2c, W2d, W2e, W2f | exhibit clear organization, with the skillful use of appropriate and varied transitions to create a unified whole and enhance meaning  establish and maintain a formal style, using grade-appropriate, stylistically sophisticated language and domain-specific vocabulary with a notable sense of voice  provide a concluding statement or section that is compelling and follows clearly from the topic and information presented | exhibit clear organization, with the use of appropriate transitions to create a unified whole  establish and maintain a formal style using precise language and domain-specific vocabulary  provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the topic and information presented | exhibit some attempt organization, with inconsistent use of transitions  establish but fail to maintain a formal style, with inconsistent use of language and domain-specific vocabulary  provide a concluding statement or section that follows generally from the topic and information presented | exhibit little attempt at organization, or attempts to organize are irrelevant to the task  lack a formal style, using language that is improvise or inappropriate for the text(s) and task  provide a concluding statement or section that is illogical or unrelated to the topic and information presented | exhibit no evidence of organization  use language that is predominantly incoherent or copied directly from the text(s)  do not provide a concluding statement or section |
| Control of Conventions: the extent to which the essay demonstrates command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling | L6 | demonstrate grade-appropriate command of conventions, with few errors | demonstrate grade-appropriate command of conventions, with occasional errors that do not hinder comprehension | demonstrate emerging command of conventions, with some errors that may hinder comprehension | demonstrate a lack of command of conventions, with frequent errors that hinder comprehension | are minimal, making assessment of conventions unreliable |

* If the prompt requires multiple texts, and the student references only one text, the response can be scored no higher than a 2.
* If the student writes only a personal response and makes no reference to the text(s), the response can be scored no higher than a 1.
* Responses totally unrelated to the topic, illegible, incoherent, or blank should be given a 0.
* A response totally copied from the text(s) with no original student writing should be scored a 0.